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WHEELING, MARCH 10, 1900.

Virginia Debt Question.

The Democratic papers of this state—not all of them, but those of the most virulent Democracy—raised a loud cry over the action of the Virginia legislature, on the debt question, measures passed by that body, which contemplated a settlement of West Virginia's share of that obligation, and connected with this state. As the Intelligencer pointed out some days ago, this is the same deceptible subterfuge that has been resorted to on all occasions of political excitement. From time to time, and especially in campaign years, the malignant Democracy has associated prominent Republicans with being in the scheme of attempting to push this arbitrary matter to a legal conclusion—that is, accepting as an honest debt the West Virginia certificates issued by the old state. Those Democratic papers, which have spread the libel on Senator Elkins have never been guilty of the courtesy of publishing his emphatic denial of any connection with the eastern holders of these so-called West Virginia certificates, but on the contrary, have been insistent on their truth, and for their benefit, we quote a Richmond dispatch to the Baltimore Sun, treating of the debt commission recently appointed by the Virginia legislature, which says:

"There are grave doubts whether this commission will ever bring any suit against West Virginia. The attorney general has more than ever been quoted in the debates in the legislature on this subject as being opposed to such a course. For years the holders of these West Virginia certificates have vainly endeavored to induce the Virginia legislature to allow them to bring suit against West Virginia in the name of this commonwealth. The proposition never received any encouragement in all of these years."

The Virginia debt question is always somewhat in this state until the desperate Democracy awakens it for its own base purposes, the underlying spirit of its motive being to create a false impression as to the attitude of the Republican party in West Virginia, with regard to obligations it has never recognized as legal or equitable.

Tavener is Willing.

Some time ago, when Judge L. N. Tavener, of Parkersburg, was mentioned as a receptive candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, it was pointed out by his friends that the amiable jurist was not a banker after the honor. It was then stated in all seriousness that it would not do for him to retire from the judgeship of a circuit which was normally Republican, and only Democratic owing to Mr. Tavener's popularity, but it appears that "things" have happened since and the judge as much as says to the Democracy, "I'll leave my happy home for you." We are glad for the sake of other aspirants that Judge Tavener has made it so plain that even Judge Lucas, the pensive poet on the other side of the mountains, need not err therein. There are others who, no doubt, would come out as unequivocally for the nomination, but the Democratic syndicate that is promoting the gubernatorial trust will have none of them. Their mournful cry is "I Haint Got no Happy Home to Leave."

Judge Tavener, while an able and clean man, will find the Republican opposition to him, if he is nominated, most cordial and hearty.

How Butler was Cornered.

Senator Butler, of South Carolina, the head and front of the Populists, was neatly cornered in the senate during the discussion of the financial bill. Senator Aldrich stuck the probe in deep, and succeeded in obtaining good results. He inquired of the South Carolinian: "Are you and the free coinage of silver?"

"The question is unscientific," replied Mr. Butler, amid a storm of laughter. He continued, getting red in the face: "I would not favor it if the increase in silver was faster than the increase of population and business, which would disturb values. I have favored it in the past. I am in favor of stopping inflation whenever that inflation is greater than business and population demands."

To this remarkable confession on the part of a champion of Bryan's cause Senator Aldrich replied:

"I have watched with great interest the disappearing of supporters of free coinage from the other side of the chamber. I never expected that the senators from North Carolina and Nebraska would so unceremoniously abandon that standard. It seems to me the unkindest cut of all."

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Of What Sex Is Honesty?

Chicago Tribune. Taking the word honesty in its broadest meaning, of sincerity, truthfulness and fair dealing, can it be said that women are more honest than men? Are they more straightforward in their dealings, truer to their promises, more punctual in their appointments? Are they quicker than men to press their faces upon neglected conductors and more zealous in rectifying favorable errors in change?

For a long time women have competed with men in business, have they earned the reputation of being "straight"? Is the woman dreamer truer to her appointments than the man tailor and more reliable in the matter of bills?

There are the natural questions that rise in response to that frequent demand that the pure stream of feminine honesty be turned into the turbid pools of the business world. If charity covers a multitude of sins, honesty embraces an army of virtues, and among these it includes sincerity in speech and thought. Are women more candid in conversation than men and more truthful in thought. Of course, honesty carried to an extreme, to the point where one is too honest to be rich or too truthful to be polite, is called crankiness, yet this, too, is esteemed a virtue. Perhaps the extremist in honesty is more apt to be a woman than a man, but, on the whole, one is inclined to believe that this rarest of all virtues is an individual matter and is not the exclusive privilege of either sex.

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